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**U.S. Representative**

***John Spratt***

South Carolina ■ 5th District

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**News Release**

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Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

**5<sup>th</sup> District Cities Win Grants for Bulletproof Vests**

**WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that three cities in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are getting grants from the Justice Department to help pay for bulletproof vests for police officers.**

Bishopville will receive \$5,666.76 to help buy 24 vests; Darlington, \$1,115.56 for five vests, and Hartsville \$2,394.34 for 20 vests.

The grants are made possible by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act. Spratt cosponsored and voted for the law, which was enacted in 1998.

Spratt said the Justice Department is making more than \$24 million available to over 3,500 jurisdictions across the country to cover the costs of vests ordered through the program. At least half of that amount must go to cities with less than 100,000 people.

This year, the Department is covering about 45 percent of the costs for cities with populations under 100,000 and about 22 percent of the costs for larger cities.

“These grants are a good example of how the federal government helps small cities and communities,” said Spratt. “Protecting the police who protect us every day is money well spent, in my opinion, and I am pleased that Bishopville, Darlington, and Hartsville are getting grants under this program.”

Applicants may request funds to help pay for one vest per officer per fiscal year. This year, the Justice Department stopped accepting applications in May.

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